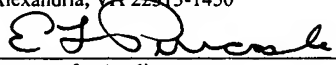




I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being deposited in the United States
Postal Service as First Class Mail in an
envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Attorney for Applicant

Date: 15 October 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/629,887
Applicant(s): Milton, et al.
Filed: July 29, 2003
Title: ARTICLE DISPENSING AND COUNTING METHOD AND DEVICE

Art Unit:
Examiner:

Docket No.: DB000974-001

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:


Enclosed is the following:

- a Preliminary Amendment.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0888. A copy of this transmittal letter is enclosed.

A return postcard is also enclosed. Please date stamp and mail the postcard in order to acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

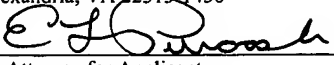
Respectfully submitted,


Edward L. Pencoske
Reg. No. 29,688
THORP, REED & ARMSTRONG
One Oxford Centre, 14th Fl.
301 Grant St.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1425
(412) 394-7789
Attorneys for Applicant

Dated: 15 October 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being deposited in the United States
Postal Services as First Class Mail in an
envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Attorney for Applicant

Date: 15 October 2003

Appl. No.: 10/629,887
Applicant(s): Milton, et al.
Filed: July 29, 2003
Title: ARTICLE DISPENSING AND COUNTING METHOD AND DEVICE

Art Unit:
Examiner:

Docket No.: DB000974-001

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 5 of this paper and include an attached new sheet.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including a new drawing is attached following page 6 of this paper.